

WEDNESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 7 | [WWW.POINTVILLE.AG](http://WWW.POINTVILLE.AG)

# ABLP MANIFESTO LAUNCHED: NEXT LEVEL AGENDA UNVEILED!



# Local News

## ABLP Manifesto 2023: Building on past successes!

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party launched its 2023 election manifesto with a commitment to continue to oversee the economic growth and recovery that the country has enjoyed following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ceremony to launch the manifesto, titled “ABLP Next Level of Progress and Prosperity For All” was held at the John E. St. Luce Financial Centre on the Factory Road where party officials highlighted the effective management of the country’s economy since 2014.

In particular, however, the ABLP underscored its management of the affairs of the country during the pandemic between 2020 and 2021 and the economic fallout which accompanied its arrival.

From rescuing the economy after its disastrous management by the UPP government between

2004 and 2014 to effectively steering the country through the unprecedented pandemic, the ABLP touted its accomplishments as it was able to successfully steer Antigua and Barbuda out of these crises to record an average growth rate of over 7 percent for two consecutive years.

The ABLP’s political leader, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, said based on its performance, his party has made a strong case for its reelection on 18th January.

“Antigua and Barbuda emerged better off than most countries. We kept fatalities down to one of the lowest numbers in the world – 146 persons of almost 6.9 million to date – and we saved more infected persons per head of population, than the majority of other countries.

“We recovered 8,960 persons, many of whom are back at work, back at



school and back to living healthy and productive lives. In the process, we built out better health facilities, better services and better equipped and trained medical teams.

“That was no easy accomplishment; it required decisive government, sound financial planning and skillful allocation of scarce resources,” he stated.

PM Browne also highlighted other initiatives to assist the people of Antigua and Barbuda during the pandemic.

These included lobbying financial institutions to offer moratoria on loan payments to borrowers, which went on to become the standard throughout the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union.

“We also used that time to incentivise our tourism private sector partners, to upgrade their properties in preparation for reopening our borders, which we did long before any other major tourism destination.

“The result of that early opening ensured that many  
*cont'd on pg 3*





*cont'd from pg 2*

companies, retail outlets, bars and service providers resumed business and survived. We successfully balanced the protection of lives and livelihoods, putting our people back to work, long before other countries," he explained.

The ABLP's political leader revealed that the private sector has been a key partner of the government in assuring the growth of the economy over the past eight years with investments totalling \$2 billion dollars.

In its new term, his government looks forward to continued engagement with this vital group.

He further announced that there have been significant private sector commitments to invest hundreds of millions of dollars into the economy over the next several years.

"Business people do not invest in a country and a government in which they have no confidence. The proof of that confidence is evident in the investments by local and foreign persons and entities.

"I thank the business sector for their confidence and assure them that a future ABLP administration will continue to work in partnership with them to continue our collective and steady climb to the Next Level of progress and prosperity," he advised.

PM Browne listed several of the projects that will be implemented.

- An investment of over \$100 million by Global Port Holdings, on the development of the Harbour front, where there will be shops, restaurants, boardwalks, and entertainment facilities including an amphitheatre

- Construction of a yacht marina in the St. John's Harbour, will also be encouraged, and local entrepreneurs can invest in its development and opera-

tions

- Antigua will be a premier destination for cruise tourism which will be bolstered by the investment of US\$100 million by one of the world's largest cruise ship companies, Royal Caribbean International (RCI)

- Moon Gate Antigua: a 49-suite all-inclusive boutique hotel and spa at Half Moon Bay

- Royalton Chic: A

350-room luxury 5-star adults-only property will open in November 2023 on Dickenson Bay, replacing the old Halcyon Cove Hotel.

The US\$80 million expansion of the University of the West Indies Five Island Campus is another major development that will be implemented this year. The agreement for the loan will be signed next Tuesday.



**SUN 15TH**

**ABLP**

**NEXT LEVEL NATIONAL MEGACADE**

**STARTING POINT: RISING SUN GROUNDS**

**MOVE-OFF: 11AM SHARP**

**WWW.VOTEABLP.AG**

# Local News



## Peter Wickham: Harold Lovell unfit to serve as UPP leader

Political scientist and head of the Caribbean Development Research Services (CADRES), Peter Wickham, believes the United Progressive Party's (UPP) leader, Harold Lovell, should not be at the helm of the organisation as he has so far proven unsuccessful in leading his party to an election victory.

The 18th January, 2023 general elections will be Lovell's third as the leader of his party with two losses in 2014 and 2018 under his belt.

These include his own two unsuccessful bids to regain the St. John's City East seat which he lost to Melford Nicholas in 2014.

Wickham said this time around, the stakes are even higher for Lovell "who has no right being leader of the UPP because he hasn't demonstrated the capacity to win".

Wickham now adds his voice to those of other political observers who are resolute in their position that Lovell is unfit to hold

the position of leader of the UPP due to his losing ways.

The findings of a recent CADRES poll revealed the St. John's City East seat is marginal, meaning it is being held by a slim majority by Melford Nicholas of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

Even if Harold Lovell should defeat the incumbent on 18th January, but the UPP loses in next week's polls, the Barbadian political scientist has suggested the UPP may decide to keep him as their leader.

In his experienced opinion, this move will not serve the interests of the UPP.

"If you look at political parties that are mature in the United Kingdom and in other places, you want your leader to win. If your leader doesn't deliver a victory, then the leader looks for something else to do, and that to me is the way it should go," Wickham argued.

"There is one thing in this that is important, which is a victory. If you come sec-



Peter Wickham

ond that's not of any consequence, so it is entirely possible that he'll become leader of the opposition and it's entirely possible that he will attempt to leverage the leadership of the opposition to suggest that he should continue to be given another chance to lead the UPP, but in the final analysis, this is to the UPP's detriment," he

added.

Wickham referred to the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in Grenada which kept recycling its older leaders until it concluded that new personalities were needed.

Dickon Mitchell was among the new blood to be welcomed into the hierarchy of the party and he later became leader of the NDC.

Under his stewardship, the NDC was victorious in Grenada's general elections in June, 2022.

With the last two general elections revealing disinterest in Lovell, Wickham suggests that the UPP may need to study the NDC's model to advance their cause.

### STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

**Latoya P. Farrell of Potters Village, St. John's, Antigua** having made sworn deposition that **Policy No. B20B-115233** issued by State Insurance Company Limited on her life has been lost and having made application to the Chief Executive Officer to grant a duplicate of the same, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date hereof, the duplicate policy requested will be issued.

**Dated:** 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2023  
By Order

Management of  
State Insurance Company Limited



## ABLP's education drive to continue in new term

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) is continuing to make education a major pillar of the agenda of its administration.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced an initiative yesterday that will result in more citizens being able to access higher education.

During the launch of his party's 2023 manifesto at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre, Browne touted his administration's success in making the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus a reality.

The university now serves as an affordable option for many citizens and residents seeking a universi-

ty education.

Addressing an attentive audience, the prime minister said his administration intends to go further by ensuring that there is a university graduate in every household in Antigua and Barbuda within the next seven years.

"We share in the great pride of all the people of Antigua and Barbuda that our country has a university at last. The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party wants to satisfy the ambition of every family to have at least one university graduate by 2030. Therefore, it is important for those who are not qualified to seize the opportunity to become qualified because by 2030, we expect at least one graduate per household," the



Prime Minister Gaston Browne prime minister remarked.

In anticipation of the influx of students at the UWI FIC who will serve to boost the country's human resource capacity, the government has taken steps to expand the institution through a US\$80 million loan that is being facilitated by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

A formal signing ceremony signalling the completion of the loan agreement is set to take place between the government, the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus and representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is scheduled for next week.

"Next Tuesday, we will

host a signing ceremony and we're inviting all of you to that ceremony at about 10am. It will be a momentous occasion that we'd like to share with all of you.

"That money assures the continued physical build out and equipping of the campus, as well as its capacity to educate our people to a higher level.

"Additionally, to help our people to achieve the highest level of education and knowledge, the ABLP administration invested \$240 million over the last eight years in scholarship grants. It is a programme the ABLP will continue and expand in the future," Prime Minister Browne assured.

### AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
ENGLISH HARBOUR	35 2580A	447

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023 at 11:00am the above residential property at Piccadilly.

The property is under the ownership of **TESSA DONAWA-DANIEL**. The land is a 43,500 sq. ft. (1 acre) plot with an approximate 6,969 sq. ft., 2 storey reinforced concrete building with 4 bedrooms and 3 ½ bathrooms.

The property is in a quiet residential area with a commanding view of the surrounding area.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from **Mr. Trevor Santos, Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: 464-7653 and 562-7653.

Dated this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022

Trevor Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer

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# Local News



## PM Browne seeks Czech Republic's help on de-risking, other issues

Prime Minister Gaston Browne believes the Czech Republic can play a critical role in assisting Antigua and Barbuda address what he has termed the “vexing issues” policies of the European Union towards Caribbean nations.

The prime minister made the point during a courtesy call made by the Czech Republic's ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Miloslav Stasek, when he presented his credentials to the government this week.

“I am sure that there are many areas where we can rely on your support. For example, you know that within the European Union, we have a number of issues - vexing issues - in which we need the assistance of countries, such as the Czech Republic.

“The issue of de-risking and the issue of black-listing, in which the EU is unilaterally creating these sanction lists and placing Eastern Caribbean countries on these sanction lists resulting in de-risking, and I would say wrongfully so,” the prime minister explained.

According to Browne, although Caribbean nations are in compliance with the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) requirements, they remain on EU blacklists which have adverse impact on the nations that populate them.

“The EU is going outside of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the FATF to create its own sanction lists, and I believe that this is an issue that re-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, with Czech ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Miloslav Stasek

quires some attention to ensure that we do not sul-ly the relationship between the EU and the Caribbean countries,” he stated.

The country's leader also used the opportunity to address the EU's threat to discontinue visa free access to Caribbean nations which offer Citizenship by Investment programmes.

“We are confident that our immigrant visa programmes are as transparent and as foolproof as any other, including those in Europe or North America.

“From that standpoint, we believe that this knee-jerk reaction by the EU is totally unacceptable.

“I would accept that there are some residual risks associated with any immigrant visa programme because you can't mitigate against all the risks, however, the risks associated with programmes in the Caribbean are sufficiently low and should not represent any security risk to the European Union,” he declared.

Prime Minister Browne urged Ambassador Stasek to use his “good offices” to make the case for Caribbean countries which are threatened by the EU's position.

In an offer to further brief the ambassador on the issue, the prime minister promised to provide him with a copy of a paper he authored on the issue of de-risking.

### NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that LAZARO FERNANDO ALEJANDRINO of St. James' Club, St Paul's Antigua is applying to the Ministry for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Wed 11   Day		Wed 11   Night	
82°	☀️	74°	☁️
21% SE 8 mph		22% ESE 6 mph	
Mostly sunny skies. High 82F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.		Partly cloudy. Low 74F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 72%	UV Index 8 of 10	Humidity 79%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:39 am	Sunset 5:51 pm	Moonrise 9:51 pm	Moonset 9:55 am
		○ Waning Gibbous	



## Senator Gardiner: ABLP deserves to be re-elected to continue economic growth

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's (ABLP) newest senator, Caleb Gardiner, has said the economic growth achieved by the incumbent administration last year provides enough evidence that Prime Minister Gaston Browne and his team should be re-elected for another five-year term when general elections are held on 18th January.

The United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the UN's regional commission on economic cooperation, has reported the Antigua and Barbuda economy experienced a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or economic growth of 8.5 per cent in 2022, the sixth highest estimated growth across countries in Latin America and the Caribbean last year.

Gardiner, who took the Oath of Office and was presented with his instruments of appointment as a senator by Governor General Sir Rodney Williams on 1st December, 2022, said the economic growth achieved by the twin island nation during the COVID-19 pandemic, serves as a testament to the sound leadership provided by Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

During an interview on Pointe FM's Pointe On De Streetz this week, Gardiner said the evidence is clear that re-electing PM Browne

and the ABLP will allow Antigua and Barbuda to continue to advance to the Next Level of development.

"It takes visionary leadership and a courageous leader to make a decision such as this to open up the country because when there is a large crisis like Covid-19, you start to have doubts.

"But keeping the country closed would have shrunk the economy largely. But it took a lot of advice, a lot of thinking and strategy to make that decision," Sena-

tor Gardiner stated.

"I honestly do think it was a great step and it paid off. I think Antiguan and Barbudans need to realise that our prime minister is incredible and with God's guidance and with persons advising him, he is here to ensure the ship is sailed in the right direction.

"Now as a young person listening to these numbers from a reputable organisation such as ECLAC, it motivates me. It tells me in the next elections, who I should vote for to have this contin-



Senator Caleb Gardiner

ued growth projection."

ECLAC has also pre-  
*cont'd on pg 8*



**POINTE ON DE STREETZ**  
WITH VERNON A. SPRINGER

**MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 | 8:00 AM**

**SEN CALEB GARDINER & SEN SHENELLA GOVIA**  
AND THEIR COLLEAGUES WILL HAVE A  
CONVERSATION ON THE NEXT LEVEL MANIFESTO.

**AREAS TO BE COVERED**

- \*EDUCATION AND SKILLS
- \*TOURISM
- \*ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
- \*ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY
- \*THE BUSINESS OF SPORTS

**ELECTION Day**

**THIS IS ANOTHER ABLP YOUNG PEOPLE PRODUCTION**

# Local News



## ECSC prioritises completion of Phase 2 of E-Litigation portal

Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC), The Honourable Dame Janice Pereira, has identified the completion of Phase 2 of the E-Litigation portal as one of the main priorities of the court this Law Year.

Speaking from Anguilla on the occasion of the opening of the Court's operations for 2023, Dame Janice said it is undeniable that a considerable part of the ECSC's mandate is to improve access to justice through the development of a digitally driven court system.

"We live in an era where technology sets the stage for our very existence; it impacts every aspect of our lives, like the law. Having recognized the many real benefits to be derived from modern information communications technologies, the court has been actively pursuing the integration of these technologies into its everyday operations," she



*The Honourable Dame Janice Pereira* stated.

The Chief Justice explained that the main component of the ICT push has been the phased implementation of the electronic document filing and service platform and E-Litigation portal which commenced in 2018.

Dame Janice recalled that these accomplishments last year marked the completion of a major milestone and the end of the first phase of the implementation of the portal.

Last year, the launch of

Phase Two of the project which is currently ongoing, was also announced.

Phase 2, she noted, involves the launch and expansion of the portal to accommodate High Court matters as well as proceedings filed in Magistrates' Courts in each member state and territory.

"This phase is pivotal to modernising the delivery of services offered by the Magistrates' Court which statistically handles the bulk of court cases brought in every state or territory.

"Implementation of the portal will also enhance user experiences at the lower, but no less important, level of the justice system.

"It is also a further step towards the integration of the magistrate into the higher judiciary.

"This process of integration must happen," she declared.

Noting that courts exist for the delivery of justice, Dame Janice said there should be no distinction or impairment, legally or otherwise, in the realisation of this purpose.

"Yet, impediments exist within our OECS region. It is time that this lack of progress for full integration of the [magistracy] be addressed once and for all," she stated emphatically.

This is likely Dame Janice's final year serving as Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court as she has signalled her intention to retire.

*cont'd from pg 7*

dicted that Antigua and Barbuda's economy will experience the third highest growth in the region in 2023, falling behind only Guyana and the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Guyana's economy is predicted to grow by 30 percent, while St. Kitts and Nevis is projected to experience the second highest growth with 10.4 percent.

Antigua and Barbuda follows in third at 7.6 percent which is significantly higher than the Caribbean's av-

erage projected growth of 3.3 percent.

Senator Gardiner said re-electing the ABLP will ensure that the nation's youth continue to benefit from advancements in the areas of education, sports, healthcare, and housing development.

"Right now, young persons want stability. They want to know in the next election and in the next couple of years if UWI (University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus) continues to grow.

"Will improvements in sports con-

tinue to happen, in healthcare, in scholarships and in housing? These are the things that young persons would want in the future," Senator Gardiner stated.

"That's the reason why we need to ensure that the Gaston Browne-led administration continues because we want to continue to grow exponentially.

"We want to continue to grow each and every day, each and every year by more percentage and if, God forbid, this does not happen, then Antigua goes right back to where it was."





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# Local News

## Nationals offered hospitality scholarship from the Czech Republic

Antiguan and Barbudan students will soon receive scholarships to pursue tertiary level studies in the Czech Republic.

The offer was made on Monday by the new Czech ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Miroslav Stasek, during a courtesy call on Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene.

The ambassador generously offered to personally contact the presidents of several universities in the Czech Republic to negotiate opportunities for Antiguan and Barbudan students to pursue higher education.

He said the scholarships will cover several areas of study including water management and energy.

Stasek suggested, however, that special opportunities exist for those desirous of pursuing education in hospitality related disciplines as the Czech Republic has special expertise in this area.

The ambassador noted that while his country has a relatively small population of about ten million, each year it welcomes approximately 15 million visitors, making tourism a major industry for his country.

Minister Greene welcomed the offer of the scholarships but also proposed that Czech students could also pursue studies in Antigua and Barbuda at the University of the West In-

dies Five Islands Campus.

Greene noted that the government has secured a US\$80 million loan to expand The UWI FIC with the addition of classrooms, faculty and student housing, administration blocks, sports and cultural facilities.

Greene pointed out that The UWI enjoys an excellent international reputation for the range and quality of globally accredited academic disciplines it offers.

The UWI FIC's expansion will also allow it to in-



crease the number of courses it offers.

Ambassador Stasek gave commitment that he will immediately set to

work securing scholarships to facilitate the educational development of the people of Antigua and Barbuda and the Czech Republic.



**14 JAN 2023 TIME 3PM**

**HON. GASTON BROWNE**

**RAWDON TURNER**

**HON. E.P. CHET GREENE**

**DARRYL MATTHEW**

**SAMANTHA MARSHALL**

**GRAND OPENING**

**ST. PETER'S YOUTH BUSINESS HUB**

(Phase 1)

**PARHAM BASKETBALL COURT**

**ABLP**

**X**





**THE HON. DR. MICHAEL BROWNE**  
PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE FOR  
**ALL SAINTS WEST**

\*\*\*  
**ABLP**  
**↑**  
**NEXT**  
**LEVEL**  
**=**



# **TRIED AND TESTED**

## **NEXT LEVEL RALLY**

ENTERTAINMENT BY:

**RICARDO DRUE • CLAUDETTE PETERS**  
**ZAMONI • MENACE XL**  
**YOUNG DESTROYER**  
**JASHAN • DESTROYER SNR**  
**LSA & KING LYRICS MAN**

**@ SEA VIEW FARM  
PLAYING FIELD**

HOSTED BY: **JESSE FYAH + IBIS**

**DJ'S: DJ ADRIAN • KING WARRIOR SOUND • SUPA DYMOND & WOODEN FOOT**

**THURS 12 JAN 2023 • TIME: 7:30PM**





# Workplace

## HR considerations for Election Day

In keeping with our mandate of sharing best practices, the Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) wishes to offer guidance to employers and human resource (HR) practitioners on Antigua and Barbuda on the issue of time off for voting. As we are aware, general elections are slated for this year on Wednesday January 18.

Consequently, we have been reminded by the Labour Department that employers are obligated “to allow voters a period of four consecutive hours for voting in accordance with section 34 of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 2001”.

Employers must recognize that voting can be a time-consuming process with lengthy waits at polling stations in large constituencies, and at peak voting times, for example, at the opening of the polls.

Employees on the other hand, should also realize that the four hours is a guide to be used only in the event of long lines.

So that if the time taken to exercise their franchise is much less or if it is more practical for them to cast their ballots at the opening of the polls and they finish voting early then they are not expected to use the law as an excuse to loiter.

As HR practitioners, we need to encourage a culture of reasonableness and consideration for the company's operations to prevent the abuse of rights accorded to employees in respect of voting.

In an ideal situation, where trust and respect between employers and employees are high, the employees would recognize that extended periods away from the workplace could hinder operations.

Therefore, they would seek to return to work immediately following



the exercise.

In less-than-ideal circumstances, there tends to be a challenge as this provision is open to abuse since it does not provide for employers to be able to ask workers to show proof of their eligibility or intention to vote in order to qualify for this paid time off on Election Day.

In an effort to minimize disruption, while accommodating employees' requests for time off to vote during working hours, some employers may consider establishing a staggered schedule whereby a pre-determined number of employees may proceed to vote then return to work.

Other businesses may choose to close operations early and dismiss employees *en masse*. It must be noted however, that employees must not be forced to vote during their normal lunch periods.

Factors inclusive of the nature of the business operations and staff complement may influence an employer's decision regarding Election Day operations.

However, best practice dictates that employees should be consulted prior to making or finalising any decision.

These recommendations are intended for employees who do not

have adequate non-work time before the start or close of the polls.

It may not be necessary for some employers to provide time off for voting to some employees who work on shift.

The Executive and Membership of HRPAB encourage all employees to exercise their civic duty to vote in the upcoming elections and to work with their employer and colleagues to ensure that all eligible employees have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote should they so choose.

**The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at [hrpro.ab@gmail.com](mailto:hrpro.ab@gmail.com) or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.**



## ‘No amnesty!’: Brazilian protests demand jail for rioters

By David Biller And Felipe Mello

“No amnesty! No amnesty! No amnesty!”

The chant reverberated off the walls of the jam-packed hall at the University of Sao Paulo’s law college on Monday afternoon. Hours later, it was the rallying cry for thousands of Brazilians who streamed into the streets of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, penned on protest posters and banners.

The words are a demand for retribution against supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro who stormed Brazil’s capital Sunday, and those who enabled the rampage.

“These people need to be punished, the people who ordered it need to be punished, those who gave money for it need to be punished,” Bety Amin, a 61-year-old therapist, said on Sao Paulo’s main boulevard. The word “DEMOCRACY” stretched across the back of her shirt. “They don’t represent Brazil. We represent Brazil.”

Protesters’ push for accountability evokes memories of an amnesty law that for decades has protected military members accused of abuse and murder during the country’s 1964-85 dictatorship. A 2014 truth commission report sparked debate over how Brazil has grappled with the regime’s legacy.

Declining to mete out punishment “can avoid tensions at the moment, but perpetuates instability,” Luis Felipe Miguel, a professor of political science at the University of Brasilia, wrote in a column entitled “No Amnesty” published Monday evening. “That is the lesson we should have learned from the end of the military dictatorship, when Brazil opted not to punish the regime’s killers and torturers.”

Brazilian police on Monday had already rounded up roughly 1,500 rioters,



*Demonstrators march holding a banner that reads in Portuguese “We are Democracy” during a protest calling for protection of the nation’s democracy in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, a day after supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro stormed government buildings in the capital. (AP Photo/Andre Penner)*

with some caught in the act of trashing Brazil’s Congress, the Supreme Court and the presidential palace, while the majority were detained the following morning at an encampment in Brasilia. Many were held in a gymnasium throughout the day, and video shared on pro-Bolsonaro social media channels showed some complaining about poor treatment in the crowded space.

The Federal Police’s press office told The Associated Press the force plans to indict at least 1,000 people, and has begun transferring them to the nearby Papuda prison.

The administration of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva says that is only the start.

Justice minister Flávio Dino vowed to prosecute those who acted behind the scenes to summon supporters on social media and finance their transport for crimes including organized crime, staging a coup, and violent abolition of the democratic rule of law. He also said authorities would investigate al-

legations that local security personnel allowed the destruction to proceed unabated.

“We cannot and will not compromise in fulfilling our legal duties,” Dino said. “This fulfillment is essential so such events do not repeat themselves.”

Lula signed a decree ordering the federal government to assume control of security in the capital Sunday. It was approved by Congress’ Lower House on Monday night, and now proceeds to the Senate.

The riot in Brasilia was a reminder of the threat to democracy posed by far-right elements that refuse to accept Bolsonaro’s electoral defeat. Since his Oct. 30 loss, they have camped outside military barracks, pleading for intervention to allow Bolsonaro to remain in power and oust Lula. When no coup materialized, they rose up themselves.

Decked out in the green and yellow of the national flag, they broke

*cont’d on pg 14*

# The World Around Us



*cont'd from pg 13*

windows, toppled furniture and hurled computers and printers to the ground. They punched holes in a massive Emiliano Di Cavalcanti painting at the presidential palace and destroyed other works of art. They overturned the U-shaped table where Supreme Court justices convene, ripped a door off one justice's office and vandalized a statue outside the court. Hours passed before police expelled the mob.

"It's unacceptable what happened yesterday. It's ter-

rorism," Marcelo Menezes, a 59-year-old police officer from northeastern Pernambuco state, said at a protest in Sao Paulo. "I'm here in defense of democracy, I'm here in defense of the people."

Cries of "No amnesty!" were also heard during Lula's Jan. 1 inaugural address, in response to the president detailing the neglect of the outgoing Bolsonaro administration.

Bolsonaro, a former army captain, has waxed nostalgic for the dictatorship era, praised a notorious tor-

turer as a hero and said the regime should have gone further in executing communists. His government also commemorated the anniversary of Brazil's 1964 coup.

Political analysts had repeatedly warned that Bolsonaro was laying the groundwork for an insurrection in the mold of that which unfolded in the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. For months, he stoked belief among hardcore supporters that the nation's electronic voting system was prone to fraud, though he never presented any evidence and independent experts disagreed.

Results from the election, the closest since Brazil's return to democracy, were quickly recognized by politicians across the spectrum, including some Bolsonaro allies, as well as dozens of other governments. The outgoing president surprised nearly everyone by promptly fading from view, neither conceding defeat nor emphatically crying fraud. He and his party submitted a request to nullify millions of votes, which was swiftly dismissed by the electoral authority.

None of that dissuaded his die-hard backers from their conviction that Bolsonaro belonged in power.

In the immediate aftermath of the riot, Lula said that the so-called "fascist fanatics" and their financial backers must be held responsible. He also accused Bolsonaro of encouraging the uprising.

Bolsonaro denied the president's accusation Sunday. Writing on Twitter, he said peaceful protest is part of democracy, but vandalism and invasion of public buildings cross the line.

Authorities are also investigating the role of the federal district's police in either failing to halt protesters' advance or standing aside to let them run amok.

Prosecutors in the capital said local security forces were negligent at the very least. A supreme court justice temporarily suspended the regional governor, who oversees the force, for what he termed "willful omission". Another justice blamed authorities across Brazil for not swiftly cracking down on "homegrown neofascism."

The upheaval finally prompted municipal and state governments to disperse pro-Bolsonaro encampments outside military barracks that have lasted since the election. Their tents and tarps were taken down, and residents were sent packing.

But pro-democracy protesters on Monday sought to ensure that their message - "No amnesty!" - was heard by the authorities responsible for investigating and prosecuting, as well as far-right elements who might dare defy democracy again.

"After what happened yesterday, we need to go to the street," said Marcos Gama, a retiree who protested Monday night in Sao Paulo. "We need to react."

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## World Bank: Recession a looming threat for global economy

**By Christopher Rugaber**

The global economy will come “perilously close” to a recession this year, led by weaker growth in all the world’s top economies - the United States, Europe and China - the World Bank warned on Tuesday.

In an annual report, the World Bank, which lends money to poorer countries for development projects, said it had slashed its forecast for global growth this year by nearly half, to just 1.7%, from its previous projection of 3%. If that forecast proves accurate, it would be the third-weakest annual expansion in three decades, behind only the deep recessions that resulted from the 2008 global financial crisis and the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

Though the United States might avoid a recession this year - the World Bank predicts the U.S. economy will eke out growth of 0.5% - global weakness will likely pose another headwind for America’s businesses and consumers, on top of high prices and more expensive borrowing rates. The United States also remains vulnerable to further supply chain disruptions if COVID-19 keeps surging or Russia’s war in Ukraine worsens.

And Europe, long a major exporter to China, will likely suffer from a weaker



*Container cranes at a port in New Jersey appear behind the Statue of Liberty, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022, in New York. The global economy will come “perilously close” to a recession this year, led by weaker growth in all the world’s top economies - the United States, Europe and China - the World Bank warned Tuesday. (AP Photo/Julia Nikhinson, File)*

Chinese economy.

The World Bank report also noted that rising interest rates in developed economies like the United States and Europe will attract investment capital from poorer countries, thereby depriving them of crucial domestic investment. At the same time, the report said, those high interest rates will slow growth in developed countries at a time when Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has kept world food prices high.

“Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has added major new costs,” World Bank President David Malpass said on a call with reporters. “The outlook is particularly devastating for many

of the poorest economies where poverty reduction is already ground to a halt and access to electricity, fertilizer, food and capital is likely to remain limited for a prolonged period.”

The impact of a global downturn would fall particularly hard on poorer countries in such areas as Saharan Africa, which is home to 60% of the world’s poor. The World Bank predicts per capita income will grow just 1.2% in 2023 and 2024, which is such a tepid pace that poverty rates could rise.

“Weakness in growth and business investment will compound the already devastating reversals in education, health, poverty

and infrastructure and the increasing demands from climate change,” Malpass said. “Addressing the scale of these challenges will require significantly more resources for development and global public goods.”

Along with seeking new financing so it can lend more to poorer countries, Malpass said, the World Bank is, among other things, seeking to improve its lending terms that would increase debt transparency, “especially for the rising share of poor countries that are at high risk of debt distress.”

The report follows a similarly gloomy forecast a week earlier from Kristina

*cont’d on pg 16*

# Regional News



## Haiti Senate President Joseph Lambert injured during attack

CMC - President of Haiti's Senate, Joseph Lambert, has been treated at a hospital in the capital, Port au Prince, as he escaped an assassination attempt on Sunday.

The authorities said Lambert underwent an eye operation and his doctors said he remains under observation.

Media reports said heavily armed individuals opened fire on the vehicle in which Lambert was travelling on Sunday at a roundabout near to the former premises of the Parliament.

The attack on the Senate President came the same day that the mandate of the ten remaining senators ended at midnight on Sunday.

As a result, Denis Cadeau, Jean Marie Ralph Féthière, Jean Rigaud Bélizaire, Garcia Delva,



*President of Haiti's Senate, Joseph Lambert*

Joseph Lambert, Kédlaire Augustin, Patrice Dumont, Pierre François Sildor, Rony Célestin and Wanique Pierre, are no longer regarded as elected legislators or mayor.

The Senate is the upper house of Haiti's bicameral legislature. It consists of 30 seats, with three members from each of the ten administrative departments. Senators are elected by popular vote to six-year terms, with one-third elect-

ed every two years. There are no term limits for senators; they may be re-elected indefinitely.

In 2015, the Senate was reduced to only ten members and the chamber of deputies was closed because the election to replace one-third of the senators and all of the deputies in 2013 was delayed indefinitely causing senators and deputies to finish their term in January 2015 without any replacement.

This led to a dysfunctional national assembly. In the 2015 parliamentary election these two-thirds were filled with new elected members, completing the 30 senators. Since January 2020, the number of lawmakers who retain their senate seats has again been reduced to ten since President Jovenel Moïse failed to hold elections in time to replace the others, whose terms expired before his assassination on July 7, 2021.

Last year, the United States Department of State, imposed sanctions on Lambert "for his involvement in significant corruption and a gross violation of human rights".

US Secretary Antony J. Blinken said Lambert abused his public position by participating in corrupt activity that undermined the integrity of Haiti's government.

### *cont'd from pg 15*

Georgieva, the head of the International Monetary Fund, the global lending agency. Georgieva estimated on CBS' "Face the Nation" that one-third of the world will fall into recession this year.

"For most of the world economy, this is going to be a tough year, tougher than the year we leave behind," Georgieva said.

"Why? Because the three big economies - U.S., EU, China - are all slowing down simultaneously."

The World Bank projects that the European Union's economy won't

grow at all next year after having expanded 3.3% in 2022. It foresees China growing 4.3%, nearly a percentage point lower than it had previously forecast and about half the pace that Beijing posted in 2021.

The bank expects developing countries to fare better, growing 3.4% this year, the same as in 2022, though still only about half the pace of 2021. It forecasts Brazil's growth slowing to 0.8% in 2023, down from 3% last year. In Pakistan, it expects the economy to expand just 2% this year, one-third of last year's pace.

Other economists have also issued bleak outlooks, though most of them not quite as dire.

Economists at JPMorgan are predicting slow growth this year for advanced economies and the world as a whole, but they don't expect a global recession.

Last month, the bank predicted that slowing inflation will bolster consumers' ability to spend and power growth in the United States and elsewhere.

"The global expansion will turn into 2023 bent but not broken," the JPMorgan report said.



## St. Vincent PM calls on US to help curb export of illegal guns to the region

CMC - The St. Vincent and the Grenadines government Monday called on the United States to do more to curb the easy access of illegal weapons and their easy exportation to Latin America and the Caribbean.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves decried the proliferation of guns manufactured in the United States and violence associated with the illegal drugs trade as the main cause for the high rate of murders in some Latin American and Caribbean countries.

"The United States of America had to do something about not having the easy access to guns and the easy exportation of guns. They have the resources to help us with that," he said noting that Mexico has circulated a draft resolution to be discussed at the January 24 meeting in Argentina of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) "on this very matter".

The draft notes that the CELAC members meeting in Buenos Aires for their seventh summit "acknowledges that while the region represents eight percent of the world population, it experiences 37 percent of the world's homicide mostly caused by firearms that have been manufactured or distributed in the United States and then trafficked in the region".

Gonsalves said the draft also states as a result, CELAC is urging the strengthening of national efforts to reinforce mechanisms to control the legal trade and transfer of firearms in order to "combat illegal flows which generate situation of violence and put at risk the security and integrity of the civilian population, especially women, youth and adolescent".

Mexico is also urging the arms industry in the United States to implement



Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves

disciplinary measures that controlling the illegal arms trade in the region, as well as those dealing with irregular behavior

*cont'd on pg 18*



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# Regional News

## Jamaica's former education minister Ruel Reid and co-accused to return to court in April

CMC - Jamaica's former Education Minister Ruel Reid and former Caribbean Maritime University President Fritz Pinnock and co-accused, are to appear in court on April 3, pending the outcome of a judicial review.

Reid, Pinnock, Reid's wife Sharen, their daughter Sharelle, and Jamaica Labour Party Councillor for the Brown's Town Division Kim Brown Lawrence all appeared in court.

They have been charged with a range of offences, including breaches of the Corruption Prevention Act, conspiracy to defraud, misconduct in a public office at common law and breaches of the Proceeds of Crime Act.

The new mention date was set on Monday when the matter was called up in the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court.

After Senior Parish Judge Jacqueline Wilcott emphasized that it was preferable to have them return after the court review, attorneys for the Financial Investigations Division (FID) and the five accused agreed on

the date.

The hearing for the review is set for February 6 and 7.

The Supreme Court will review a court ruling that Reid and the co-accused have a case to answer for their alleged corrupt activities.

Last February, Chief Parish Judge Chester Crooks ruled that the accused, who are charged in a multimillion-dollar fraud case, had a case to answer in response to Reid and Pinnock's objection that the charges against them should be nullified because the FID, which leveled the charges, had no legal authority to arrest or charge them.

Reid and Pinnock challenged the ruling after Crooks claimed he was recusing himself from the trial due to a perceived conflict of interest and sought judicial review. The issue was then discovered to be related to the judge's presence at Munro College while Reid was head boy.

According to Justice Wilcott, an April date will provide all parties enough time to prepare following



*Jamaica's former Education Minister, Ruel Reid.*

the judicial review outcome.

Reid and the co-accused were arrested in 2019 after investigators alleged that nearly \$50 million of public funds were diverted to the personal use of Ruel Reid and CMU President Professor Fritz Pinnock through a number of schemes, including one that mirrors the Career Advancement Programme-Youth Employment Solutions.

Reid is also alleged to have instructed Professor Pinnock, among other things, to hire his wife Sharen Reid who was manager of legal affairs at CMU.

Reid's wife and daughter, Sharelle Reid, who graduated from CMU, were also said to have access to over \$1 million on a debit card that was connected to an account at CMU.

The domestic helper of the Reid family, Doreen Miller, was caught in the midst of the scandal earlier this year but said the family used her as a pawn to conduct their criminal activities. She was not among those who were probed and charged by the Major Organised Crime And Anti-Corruption Agency, MOCA.

The Councillor for the Brown's Town Division in St. Ann, Kim Brown-Lawrence, was investigated and accused of being awarded a contract from CMU without actually aiding or providing services to the university.

### *cont'd from pg 17*

as requiring gun dealers to step up to ensure there are no sales to straw buyers through reasonable identity checks.

He said the draft resolution is also urging the gun industry to incorporate tech-

nology to make it much easier to track illegal weapons.

Gonsalves said seven of the ten countries with the highest homicide rate per 100,000 in the world are from Latin America and the Caribbean including Jamaica.



## Biden, López Obrador, Trudeau meet in Mexico City for summit

AP - President Joe Biden, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau are meeting for a series of talks on migration, trade and climate change on Tuesday as the three leaders try to mend tensions that have divided the continent.

The three-way gathering is held most years, although there was a hiatus while Donald Trump was U.S. president. It's often called the "three amigos summit," a reference to the deep diplomatic and economic ties among the countries.

However, the leaders still found themselves at odds, especially as they struggle to handle an influx of migrants and to crack down on smugglers who profit from persuading people to make the dangerous trip to the United States.

In addition, Canada and the U.S. accuse López Obrador of violating a free trade pact by favoring Mexico's state-owned utility over power plants built by foreign and private investors. Meanwhile, Trudeau and López Obrador are concerned about Biden's efforts to boost domestic manufacturing, creating concerns that U.S. neighbors could be left behind.

The key takeaways from the summit revolve around better connections among the three nations and a shared goal of a stronger North America on energy and in particular semiconductors, climate and a pledge to cut methane emissions, an agreement to manage large waves of migrants coming to the region and a more cohesive regional strategy on dealing with future pandemic-related health threats.

The centerpiece of the summit will be hours of talks with all three leaders, but Biden will start Tuesday with a meeting with Trudeau. It's unlikely to



*President Joe Biden is greeted by Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador as he arrives at the National Palace in Mexico City, Mexico, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)*

be as contentious as his sit-down with López Obrador on Monday.

During that meeting, the Mexican leader challenged Biden to improve life across the region, telling him that "you hold the key in your hand."

"This is the moment for us to determine to do away with this abandonment, this disdain, and this forgetfulness for Latin America and the Caribbean," Lopez Obrador said.

Biden responded by pointing to the billions of dollars that the United States spends in foreign aid around the world, saying that "unfortunately our responsibility just doesn't end in the Western Hemisphere."

It was a noticeably sharp exchange after the two leaders had smiled and embraced and shaken hands for the cameras.

Biden and López Obrador haven't been on particularly good terms for the past two years. The Mexican leader

made no secret of his admiration for Trump, and last year he skipped a Los Angeles summit of the Americas because Biden didn't invite the authoritarian regimes of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

However, there have been attempts to thaw the relationship. Biden made a point of flying into the new Felipe Angeles International Airport, a prized project of the Mexican president even though it's been a source of controversy.

The airport, which is expected to cost \$4.1 billion when finished, is more than an hour's drive north of the city center, has few flights and until recently lacked consistent drinking water. However, it's one of the keystone projects that López Obrador is racing to finish before his term ends next year.

The U.S. and Mexico have also reached an agreement on a major

**cont'd on pg 20**

# WHO Europe: no immediate COVID-19 threat from China

AP - The director of the World Health Organization's Europe office said Tuesday that the agency sees "no immediate threat" for the European region from a COVID-19 outbreak in China, but more information is needed.

China is battling a nationwide outbreak of the coronavirus after abruptly easing restrictions.

Hans Kluge said that, based on the information WHO had received from China, there was no threat, but more detailed and regular information was re-

quired from China to monitor the evolving situation.

"We cannot be complacent," he added.

Several countries have imposed COVID-19 testing requirements on Chinese travelers. Australia and Canada require travelers from China to take a COVID-19 test prior to boarding their flight. Other countries including the U.S., India, Japan, South Korea and several European nations have announced tougher COVID-19 measures on travelers from China amid concerns over

a lack of data on infections in China and fears that new variants may emerge.

China has threatened to retaliate against countries that require travelers from China to show a negative test result for COVID-19 taken within the previous 48 hours. On Tuesday, it suspended issuing visas for South Koreans to come to the country for tourism or business in apparent retaliation for the move by Seoul.

"We do acknowledge that a number of countries, based on the precaution-

ary principle, are implementing some measures," the WHO Europe director said.

"It is not unreasonable for countries to take precautionary measures to protect their populations while we are waiting more detailed information that is shared in publicly accessible databases," he said. Any measure should be "rooted in science, ... proportionate and non discriminatory."

Catherine Smallwood, the World Health Organization's Europe COVID-19 incident manager, added that "we should not be blindsided at any point by an exclusive focus on one particular geographic area."

Earlier this month, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the agency was "concerned about the risk to life in China" amid the coronavirus' explosive spread across the country and the lack of outbreak data from the Chinese government. He said the agency recently met with Chinese officials to underline the importance of sharing more details about COVID-19 issues including hospitalization rates and genetic sequences, even as the pandemic continues to recede globally since it began in late 2019.

## cont'd from pg 19

shift in migration policy, which Biden announced last week.

Under the plan, the U.S. will send 30,000 migrants per month from Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti and Venezuela back across the border from among those who entered the U.S. illegally. Migrants who arrive from those four countries are not easily returned to their home countries for a variety of reasons.

In addition, 30,000 people per month from those four nations who get sponsors, background checks and an airline flight to the U.S. will get the ability to work legally in the country for two years.

On Monday, before the summit began, López Obrador said he would consider accepting more migrants than previously announced.

"We don't want to anticipate things, but this is part of what we are going to talk about at the summit," López Obrador said. "We support this type of measures, to give people options, alternatives," he said, adding that "the numbers may be increased."

Mexico would likely require an increase in those receiving work authorization in the U.S. in order to receive more migrants who are being expelled. Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, cautioned that nothing was decided yet.

"What we need is to see how the program announced last week works in practice, what if any adjustments need to be made to that program and then we can talk about taking the next steps," he said.

The number of migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border has risen dramatically during Biden's first two years in office. There were more than 2.38 million stops during the year that ended Sept. 30, the first time the number topped 2 million.

Biden is expected to follow up his first trip to Mexico as president with another to Canada, although it has not yet been scheduled.

A senior Canadian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly, said Canada is working with Americans on a visit in the near future.



## Russia promises stronger military as Ukraine war drags on

Aljazeera — President Vladimir Putin's defence minister has pledged to build a deeper arsenal of weapons, bolster aviation technology to better evade air defences and improve drone production after a series of battlefield humiliations in Ukraine.

Since Putin sent troops into Ukraine on February 24, the once mighty army of a former superpower has been repeatedly outwitted and outmanoeuvred by the smaller Ukrainian army, which is supported by the United States and its European allies.

The conflict has turned into a grinding war of attrition that has killed and wounded tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides, as well as Ukrainian civilians, though there is no end in sight, and both sides are re-arming as fast as they can.

Defence minister Sergei Shoigu told top generals that to renew the army, they would have to take account of the experience of fighting in the Syrian civil war — where Russia intervened on the side of President Bashar al-Assad — and in Ukraine.

“We need to constantly analyse and systematise the experience of our groups’ actions in Ukraine and Syria, and on that basis to draw up training programmes for personnel and plans for the supply of military equip-



Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, centre, speaks during a meeting with high-level officers in Moscow [Russian Defence Ministry Press Service via AP]

ment,” Shoigu said.

Putin, after meeting the mothers of dead soldiers, ordered Shoigu on January 2 to prepare a report on how military units are supplied, with details about weapons and equipment as well as proposals on how to improve the defence ministry's work.

Nuclear guarantee

Shoigu said Russia would continue to develop its nuclear triad of ballistic missiles, submarines and strategic bombers because such weapons were “the main guarantee of its sovereignty”.

On conventional weapons, Shoigu gave a remarkably frank analysis of where Russia needed to improve.

Nationalist critics of Shoigu have repeatedly

asked why Russia failed to establish air superiority in Ukraine, why top generals made such grave tactical mistakes and why Russian soldiers were sent into battle without the right equipment, intelligence or even medical kits.

Shoigu said Russia would pay particular attention to the air force, build up its overall attack capabilities and improve command, communication and training.

Russia will “increase the combat capabilities of the aerospace forces — both in terms of the work of fighters and bombers in areas where modern air defence systems are in operation, and in terms of improving unmanned aerial vehicles”.

“Our immediate plans

are to expand the arsenals of modern strike weapons,” he said. “We need to improve the management and communication system.”

Shoigu also said the military commissariats, which are responsible for drafting soldiers, needed to be modernised.

After Putin ordered on September 21 what he cast as a “partial mobilisation”, Russia's first since World War II, about 300,000 additional men were drafted, though several hundred thousand more Russian men fled abroad to avoid being called up.

“It is necessary to digitalise databases, establish interaction with local and regional authorities, as well as industry,” Shoigu said of the commissariats.

# Sports News



## Bills safety Hamlin back in Buffalo to continue recovery

AP - Bills safety Damar Hamlin said he returned to Buffalo on Monday "with a lot of love on my heart" to continue his recovery in a hospital there, a week after going into cardiac arrest and having to be resuscitated on the field during a game in Cincinnati.

Hamlin was discharged from the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in the morning and flown to western New York. He was listed in stable condition at Buffalo General Medical Center/Gates Vascular Institute.

"I can confirm that he is doing well. And this is the beginning of the next stage of his recovery," said Dr. William Knight, one of his doctors in Cincinnati.

Doctors said Hamlin has been walking since having a breathing tube removed on Friday, eating regular food and undergoing therapy. They said he was on a normal or even accelerated trajectory in his recovery from cardiac arrest, which is considered a life-threatening event, and that normal recovery can be measured from weeks to months.

"We continue to be ecstatic about his recovery," Dr. Timothy Pritts said.

Hamlin's return comes a day after he cheered on the Bills from his hospital bed during their regular season-ending 35-23 win over



*Buffalo Bills defensive back Damar Hamlin (3) leaves the field after an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022, in Foxborough, Mass. Quick on-the-field emergency care from well-rehearsed medical personnel is widely credited with helping save Damar Hamlin's life. But whether his cardiac arrest could have been prevented is much less certain. (AP Photo/Greg M. Cooper, File)*

the New England Patriots. The game proved to be a cathartic outpouring of support for the Bills and Hamlin.

"Headed home to Buffalo today with a lot of love on my heart," Hamlin said in a tweet. "Watching the world come together around me on Sunday was truly an amazing feeling."

Hamlin was so excited watching teammate Nyheim Hines return the opening kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown that "he jumped up and down, got out of his chair, set every alarm off in the ICU in the process," Pritts said with a laugh. "But he was fine. It was just appropriate reaction to very exciting play."

Pritts said it was still premature to comment on

the potential cause of Hamlin's cardiac arrest and that more testing would be done.

"The goal of the transfer .... is to get him closer to home for further evaluation, recovery and eventually discharge and rehabilitation," Buffalo General Medical Center/Gates Vascular Institute said in a news release.

The Bills wore No. 3 Hamlin patches on their jerseys Sunday and honored their teammate by raising three fingers in the closing minutes, while tight end Dawson Knox celebrated his touchdown by forming his hands into the shape of a heart. Fans joined in, with many holding up red heart and No. 3 signs.

"The same love you all have shown me is the same love that I plan to put back

into the world n more," Hamlin tweeted Monday.

Bills coach Sean McDermott and general manager Brandon Beane briefly saw Hamlin after he landed in Buffalo.

"We're happy to have him back." McDermott told reporters on a conference call. "He's a little bit tired, but it was good to get to see him in person for the first time in a while."

The 24-year-old from the Pittsburgh area has made significant progress in his recovery since spending his first two days at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center under sedation and breathing through a ventilator.

He was awakened on Wednesday night and was eventually able to grip people's hands. By Friday, Hamlin was able to breathe on his own and even addressed the team by video-conference, telling the Bills, "Love you boys."

The last update from doctors came on Saturday, when they described Hamlin's neurological function as "excellent," though he remained listed in critical condition.

Pritts said doctors were able to upgrade his condition from critical on Monday, clearing the way for the flight home.

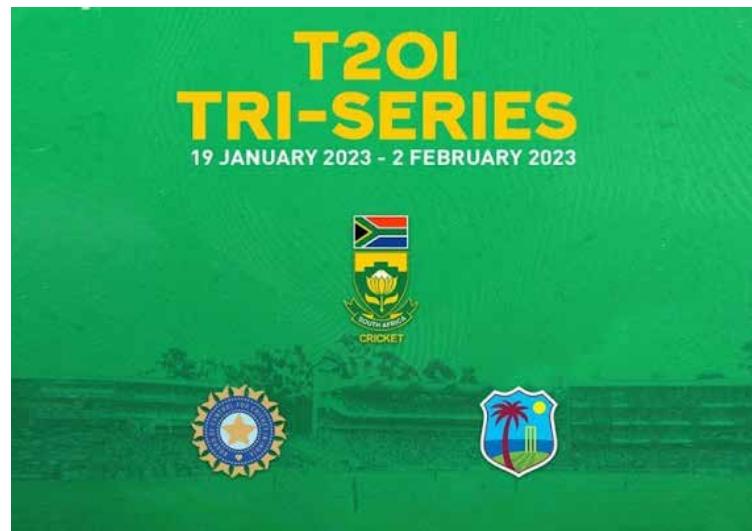
"We want to ensure that each organ system is stable  
*cont'd on pg 23*



## Shanika Bruce replaces Cherry Ann Fraser for Women's T20I Tri-Series in South Africa

The Cricket West Indies (CWI) Selection Panel announced that seam bowler, Shanika Bruce will join the team in South Africa for the upcoming T20 International (T20I) Tri-Nation Series against hosts South Africa and India. She comes in as a replacement for Cherry Ann Fraser who has been ruled out due to injury.

Bruce represented the West Indies Women's 'A' Team in 2021 when Pakistan toured the Caribbean. She has played three T20Is for Barbados at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England last year. The Tri-Series will be played from 19 to 30 January and forms part of the preparations for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup



which will also be played in South Africa.

Lead Selector Ann Browne-John said,

"It's unfortunate that Cherry Ann Fraser has been ruled out of the Tri-Series and ICC Women's T20 World Cup due to injury. Fraser has shown improvement during the recent series against England and

would have provided another fast-bowling option for the skipper. Shanika Bruce will replace Fraser in the Tri-Series squad. Bruce had a successful regional tournament last year and was one of the top bowlers, so as a result we believe she is right fit for the team at this time."

The West Indies Women

will play at least four matches, playing two matches each against hosts South Africa and India. The two leading teams will then play each other in the Tri-Series Final on 2 February. West Indies will also play a warm-up match against South Africa ahead of the Tri-Series at Beacon Bay on 16 January.

Final squads for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa must be submitted by 2 February.

The eighth edition of the marquee ICC Women's event will begin on 10 February with hosts South Africa taking on Sri Lanka. West Indies have been drawn in Group 2 alongside England, India, Pakistan and Ireland.

### *cont'd from pg 22*

to improving and that he needs a minimal amount of assistance such that he does not need intensive nursing," Pritts said. "We have some awesome rock star nurses who've been with him from the beginning, but he no longer needs that level of nursing care and no longer needs intensive respiratory therapy from our respiratory care practitioners and is able to then move to a setting where he would have less intensive care."

A doctor accompanied Hamlin to the airport.

Doctors declined to speculate

about whether Hamlin would be able to attend a game in person. By beating New England, the Bills (13-3) clinched home-field advantage through the first two rounds of the playoffs. Buffalo is preparing to host division rival Miami in a wild-card playoff matchup on Sunday.

"Right now it's just a young man recovering from a very serious illness, and we think that he will recover well from this," Pritts said. "He has a great positive attitude."

Hamlin's heart stopped on Monday night after making what appeared to be a routine tackle in the first quar-

ter against the Bengals. The game was initially suspended before officially being canceled later in the week.

News of Hamlin's discharge from the hospital in Cincinnati was greeted with enthusiasm.

"That's unbelievable," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said.

"I mean, just think about it - that was one week, not even a week ago. There's no one in this room that would have expected he'd be in Buffalo," he added. "God is great. He works miracles. This is certainly a miracle, there's no question. ... And just an amazing moment for Damar."

# Madrid begins defense of Super Cup title in Saudi Arabia

AP - The Spanish Super Cup is returning to Saudi Arabia with defending champion Real Madrid and Valencia looking to get back on track and Barcelona and Real Betis hoping to maintain momentum.

The first semifinal game on Wednesday features Madrid and Valencia with both teams coming off weekend losses in the Spanish league. Madrid has dropped three points behind league leader Barcelona after a 2-1 defeat at Villarreal. Valencia lost 1-0 to Cádiz at home - its second straight league loss - and is four points from the relegation zone.

Barcelona and Betis meet on Thursday following victories back home. Barcelona rebounded from recent poor results with a hard-fought 1-0 win at Atlético Madrid, while Betis continued its good start to the year with a 2-1 win at Rayo Vallecano to stay in the Champions League spots.

The final is on Sunday at the King Fahd Stadium in Riyadh.

"We are upset about the game against Villarreal," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "We have to see how the team will react in these next matches. The Super Cup is an important test for us."

This is the fourth edition of the revamped Super Cup, which used to be played

only between the Spanish league champion and the Copa del Rey winner. Now the runners-up in both competitions also participate, forming a Final Four tournament.

Madrid clinched the league ahead of Barcelona last season, while Betis won the cup final against Valencia.

Madrid won the revamped Super Cup in 2020 and 2022. Athletic Bilbao won in 2021, when the tournament was played back in Spain because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Last year's title gave us confidence for the rest of the season," Ancelotti said. "It's important to do well, to do better than we did in the last few matches."

The lucrative contract to play in Saudi Arabia was extended through 2024-25 despite criticism over the nation's poor human rights record.

## MADRID DEPLETED

Madrid will be without defender David Alaba and midfielder Aurélien Tchouaméni because of injuries. The regular starters did not travel with the rest of the squad to Saudi Arabia. Dani Carvajal, who had been sidelined recently because of a muscle problem, will be available for Ancelotti.

## LEWANDOWSKI FOR BARÇA

Barcelona coach Xavi



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior reacts during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Villarreal and Real Madrid at Estadio De La Ceramica in Villarreal, eastern Spain, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023. (AP Photo/Alberto Saiz)

will be able to count on Robert Lewandowski again after the striker missed the league game against Atlético while serving the first of a three-game suspension. He is allowed to play in the Super Cup, though, and is set to start against Betis.

## BOOSTED BETIS

Betis enters the Super Cup boosted by consecutive wins to start the year. The results left the Seville club in fourth place in the Spanish league and with a spot secured in the round of 16 of the Copa del Rey.

"It was important to win

going into the Super Cup," Betis coach Manuel Pellegrini said. "We will go with a lot of confidence."

## VALENCIA STRUGGLES

The team coached by Gennaro Gattuso and led by veteran forward Edinson Cavani arrives in Saudi Arabia having won only one of its last eight league games.

"We are going through a tough moment and I'm the first responsible for it because I'm the coach," Gattuso said. "We have to keep working hard, it's the only solution."



## Nick Kyrgios' warm-up match with Novak Djokovic sells out in 58 minutes

BBC - Nick Kyrgios had a dig at his critics after his warm-up match against Novak Djokovic in Melbourne on Friday sold out in 58 minutes.

The controversial Australian will play the Serb in a repeat of last year's Wimbledon final in a fundraiser on Rod Laver Arena before the Australian Open.

"Wow Nick Kyrgios is bad for the sport! Wow what a disgrace, a national embarrassment!" Kyrgios, 27, tweeted.

"How dare he sell out another stadium, the arrogance."

Tickets for the match on the 14,820-capacity court were priced at 20 Australian dollars (£11.30).

Kyrgios has long divided opinion with his on-court outbursts and antics, which are often displayed alongside huge natural talent and eye-catching trick shots.

Some of his conduct, such as spitting in the direction of a fan at Wimbledon, has resulted in fines, while other episodes have been viewed as humorous exchanges with the crowd.

'My life was spiralling out of control'

The match against Djokovic takes place on the same day as the release of Netflix documentary *Break Point* in which Kyrgios speaks about a "chaotic" period in his career.

"My life was just kind



*Proceeds from the tickets for Nick Kyrgios' match with Novak Djokovic will go to the Australian Tennis Foundation*

of spiralling out of control - drinking every single night," Kyrgios says in the documentary, which is a 10-part series focusing on the next generation of players who are likely to challenge Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. "For four, five years of my career, it was just so chaotic.

"I don't really have any expectations in my matches anymore - I just want to go out there, have fun, and take the pressure off, and we can kind of live more of a normal life."

Kyrgios acknowledges in the documentary that he does sometimes "cross the line" on court.

"In the heat of the battle, I'm two different people," he says. "That's just my passion, that's my emotion."

He was most recent-

ly criticised by Australian co-captain Lleyton Hewitt after pulling out of the United Cup in early January with an injury just minutes before his pre-tournament news conference.

Hewitt said he had been unaware of Kyrgios' withdrawal until his announcement, but Kyrgios argued he had been thrown "under the bus".

From 'strange cat' to 'official bromance'

Kyrgios and Djokovic have had an uneasy relationship in the past, with the Australian branding the 21-time Grand Slam winner a "tool" and a "strange cat" in 2021.

But Kyrgios said a "bromance" had blossomed in the run-up to the pair's Wimbledon final last sum-

mer, which the Serb won in four sets.

In his on-court victory speech in SW19, Djokovic told Kyrgios: "I never thought I would say so many nice things about you! OK, it's official: it is a bromance."

Djokovic, who returns to next week's Australian Open a year on from his controversial deportation, is coming off the back of winning the Adelaide International 1 title on Sunday.

Kyrgios, playing in his first match since injuring his ankle in October, will be hoping to defend his Australian Open doubles title alongside Thanasi Kokkinakis after an impressive 2022 season which saw him reach a Grand Slam singles final for the first time.

# Sports News



## Flyers2 trounce Ottos Clippers in Division II basketball

Flyers2 flew past Daryll Matthew's Ottos Clippers by 64 points in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division league on Monday.

TShawn Lewis shot a game high of 21 points to lead Flyers2 to their emphatic 97-33 victory over Ottos Clippers in their Zone 2 affair in the first game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Lewis was supported by Javonte Daley with 20 points, Adrian Carnegie with 15 points and Craig Massiah with 12 points. Michael Gunthropes scored 9 points while Etienne Davis scored 7 points for Ottos Clippers.

Rebels prevailed 63-59 against All Saints Slam in their Zone 1 match-up in Monday's second game. Buel Henry sank 18 points and Tyndale Telemaque

converted 16 points for Rebels.

Keady Martin scored 16 points and Kim Casey netted 10 points for All Saints Slam.

There were wins for Cutie's Ovals Young Guns, Spanish Heat and Jan Serv Fearless Crew2 when the Second Division resumed at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday following the holidays.

Cutie's Ovals Young Guns were 75 - 47 winners over Wadadli Elites2 in their Zone Z encounter.

Delornie Jules scored 15 points and Judah Ferris had 14 points for Young Guns while Orion Seraphine had 16 points for Wadadli Elites2.

Spanish Heat was too hot to handle as they steamrolled Young Warrior Ballers 115 - 59 in their Zone 2 affair.

Stephen Matthews shot a game high

of 31 points and Antonio Cruz scored 16 points for Spanish Heat.

Juran Jarvis sank 20 points and Andrew Simon converted 17 points for Warrior Ballers.

Fearless Crew2 prevailed 64 - 60 over Cutie's Ovals Superiors in their Zone 1 match-up.

Cairon Marcel had 18 points for Fearless Crew2 and Michael Jeffers also scored 18 points for Cutie's Ovals Superiors.

The ABBA Second Division will continue with a Zone 2 double header at the JSC Sport Complex tomorrow evening.

Cuties Ovals Young Guns will take on Caribbean Pharmaceuticals Fearless Crew1 at 6:45pm and Daryll Matthew's Ottos Clippers will meet Wadadli Elites2 at 8:30pm.

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## Old Road beat Blue Jays to go third in Premier League

Old Road notched up their fourth win in six matches to advance to third place in the standings of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division on Monday.

Old Road scored all their goals in the first half to record a 3-1 victory over Cedar Grove Blue Jays in the second game of a double header at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters.

Goals by Johnathan Shoy in the 13th minute, Stefan Smith in the 31st minute and forward Raheem Deterville in the 40th minute gave Old Road a 3-0 halftime lead.

Jahmali Deterville scored a consolation goal in the 66th minute for Cedar Grove but was unable to stop the Blue Jays from losing their third match in five outings.

The result allowed Old Road to overtake Villa Lions and move into third place in the 16-team competition. The win lifted Old Road to 13 points, one more than Villa Lions from the same number of appearances.



*Old Road huddle just before kick off in their Premier Division match against Cedar Grove Blue Jays at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday, 9th January, 2023. (Photo: ABFA)*

Young Lions of Old Road scored a late winner from the penalty spot to snatch a 1-0 win over Lion Hill in their First Division affair which was the first game of yesterday's double header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Xavier Joseph scored the penalty in the 89th minute to salvage Young Lion's fourth win in six matches.

While protesting the referee's decision to award Young Lions the penalty one minute before the end of regulation time however, Lion Hill's Javaughn Adams was given a red card and sent off the field for using insulting and abusive language.

Their third loss in six matches ensured Lion Hill remained mid-table on sev-

en points, while Young Lions advanced into joint second place with Green City of Bendals with 12 points apiece.

The ABFA Second Division will continue with four matches tomorrow at 4:30 pm.

FC Master Ballers will face Sea View Farm at the Ottos playing field. Blackburn Palace will tackle Attacking Saints at the Princess Margaret School playing field.

TAMO FC will meet ABAYA at the Parham playing field and Jennings United will host Real Blizzard at the Jennings playing field.

### **cont'd from pg 28**

balls while Barthlette Henry and Hilroy Andrew Jr. each made 10.

It was the first loss in two outings for New Winthorpes Lions after their opening game against Rising Sun Spartans was abandoned due to rain last Saturday.

The ABCA 10 Splash will continue at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium with a Zone A double header tomorrow.

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks will tackle Police at 2:30pm and Bolans Blasters will clash with New Winthorpes Lions at 5:30pm.

## Rising Sun get first win, Pigotts crush Lions in ABCA 10 Splash

Rising Sun Spartans claimed their first win against Police while Pigotts Crushers rolled over the New Winthorpes Lions in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Zone A double header at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium on Monday.

After losing their opening encounter to Pigotts Crushers and having their second game against New Winthorpes Lions abandoned due to rain, Rising Sun Spartans rebounded to pull off a 16-run victory over Police in yesterday's second game.

Rising Sun Spartans made 110 for 6 off their allotted 10 overs after being sent in to bat. Allrounder, Shane Burton, who opened the innings, slammed 43 off 20 balls with 4 fours and 3 sixes.

Burton shared a 47 run second wicket partnership with Owen Graham, who made 33 off 16 balls with 3 fours and 3 sixes. Burton also added 33 runs for the third wicket with captain Kerry Mentore, who chipped in with 16 off 13 balls.

Leg spinner, Lynton Africa, captured 2 for 16 and

Shavon Moore claimed 2 for 19.

Set 111 to win, Police could only muster 94 for 2 off their 10 overs.

Captain Derek Mourillon hit an unbeaten 30 off 18 balls with 3 sixes and a 4.

Opener Malique Gerald made 28 from 13 balls, fellow opening partner Jeron Jones made 21 off 21 balls and Moore was not out on 12.

It was the first loss in three outings for Police.

Pigotts Crushers claimed their second win in three matches by recording a 40 run victory over New Winthorpes Lions in Monday's first encounter.

Opener Essan Warner struck 42 off 30 balls with 4 fours and 2 sixes to guide Pigotts Crushers to 109 for 3 off their 10 overs after being sent in to bat.

Demari Benta was not out on 17 off 8 balls. Opener Kadeem Henry also made 17 off six balls and Jewel Andrew chipped in 10.

In reply, Vishal Gobin snapped up three wickets for 14 runs as New Winthorpes Lions were restricted to 69 for 5 off their 10 overs.

Opener Jermaine Otto topscored with 20 off 27

*cont'd on pg 27*



Pigotts Crushers' Vishal Gobin (right) accepts his Man of the Match award from President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association Leon "Kuma" Rodney at the end of the game against Police in the ABCA 10 Splash at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium on Monday, 9th January, 2023. (Photo: ABCA)